

The North Carolina Asthma Plan

2007 - 2012

A Brief History

- CDC funding received in Fall 2004
- Asthma staff on-board in Fall 2005
- Resources gathered, reviewed, etc.
- Priorities developed, based on key surveillance and community interactions

A Brief History (continued)

- State Plan Facilitated Workshop – Spring 2006
- Review and development via AANC subcommittees, Asthma Project Management Team, local coalition input, meetings with Asthma Program Consultant, other key stakeholder involvement
- Approved by AANC and NC State Health Director

Why a State Asthma Plan?

- Large number of organizations and individuals committed to asthma care
- Sometimes working independently, without a unified vision
- Minimize duplication, Maximize resource usage
- Ensure people across NC have access to information, care, and services

Some Key Players

- North Carolina Asthma Program
- Asthma Alliance of North Carolina (AANC)
- Asthma Project Management Team
- Local Asthma Coalitions
- Facilitation Workshop Participants
- MANY Others!

Overview

The plan includes the following:

- Asthma is a Public Health Priority
- Burden of Asthma Overview
- The Planning Process
- Contributors and Workgroups
- The Strategic Plan
- Sustainability
- Evaluation Plan

Sections of the Plan

- Education and Public Awareness
- Health Disparities
- Medical Management
- Surveillance
- Environmental
- Policy - included throughout

Education and Public Awareness

Key interventions:

- School Asthma Action Planning
- Self Administration of Asthma Medications
- Educate about relationship of second hand smoke and asthma
- Educational Opportunities for Childcare Centers
- Asthma education curriculum
- Local coalition and community-based activities

Health Disparities

- Culturally appropriate asthma initiatives and activities
- Incorporate cultural competency trainings
- Develop resource guide
- Raise awareness among disparate populations on preventative measures
- Promote a campaign to address health literacy
- AANC representatives to serve on NC Health Access Coalition

Medical Management

- Promote best practices, guidelines, and data related to asthma diagnosis and management
- Educate people with asthma and their families on effective asthma management
- Promote “asthma champions”
- Emphasize collaborative asthma action planning
- Work to assure all individuals with asthma have access to quality medical home

Surveillance

- Identify and monitor populations at risk for asthma
- Survey asthma management plan usage
- Enhance systems for monitoring county-level data
- Inventory currently available asthma resources
- Identify gaps in existing asthma data

Environmental

- Educate about indoor and outdoor asthma triggers
- Promote policies supporting identification and elimination of asthma triggers in Section 8 and public housing
- Promote updating of regulations and codes addressing indoor triggers
- Promote alternatives to air pollution
- Promote awareness of air quality index
- Explore correlations between environmental exposure and health impact

Other Important Points

- Addresses all populations in NC
- Many sections intersect and overlap
- Plan is based largely on key surveillance findings, included in the *Burden of Asthma in North Carolina* report

Release of the Plan

- Plan's official release date – April 17, 2007 – N.C. Asthma Summit
- Also released and available online at www.asthma.ncdhhs.gov
- Mailed and distributed to local health departments, asthma coalitions, other states, CDC, and other key stakeholder groups

Where do we go from here?

- Evaluation
- Included as foundation of NC Asthma Program's grant application to CDC
- Implement through NC Asthma Program, AANC, local coalitions and community groups, and others
- Review and assess progress on ongoing basis

How YOU Can be Involved

- Share plan with colleagues and constituents
- Become involved with local asthma coalition or workgroup
- Attend AANC meetings
- Participate on list serves
- Communicate with Asthma Program Consultant

For More Information...

Caroline Chappell, MPA
North Carolina Asthma Program
(919) 707-5209
Caroline.Chappell@ncmail.net